attaining meaningful economic development through mutually beneficial cooperation.

**Indo-Nepal Extradition Treaty**

2696. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal for Indo-Nepal extradition treaty is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Extradition arrangements between India and Nepal are at present governed by the Treaty of Extradition of October 2, 1953. Both India and Nepal are also signatories of the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism. The question of updating the Extradition Treaty of 1953 was discussed during the recent Home Secretary-level talks between the two countries in Kathmandu from July 5-7, 2000.

During those discussions, the two sides agreed on the need for updating of the existing bilateral extradition arrangements in keeping with the practical requirements of their law enforcement agencies and the changed nature of crimes. It was agreed that the experts of the two sides would meet shortly to hold discussions on a draft of the revised bilateral extradition arrangements and submit its report to the two Governments at an early date.

The proposed updated Extradition Treaty seeks to make the existing arrangement between the two countries more effective in the suppression of crime by incorporating relevant provisions for the reciprocal extradition of offenders.